GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:120
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
AGREEMENT BETWEEN AIR INDIA AND VIRGIN ATLANTIC .
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Virgin Atlantic a threat to Air India`, appearing in the Hindustan Times dated July 6, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed between Air India and Virgin Atlantic in December 1999;

(c) whether the code share agreement between the Air India and Virgin Atlantic has largely masked some important aspects, which if carried to its logical conclusion, could have a serious impact on Air India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time schedule of flights of Virgin Atlantic and Air India;

(f) whether the flight timings of Virgin Atlantic are better than Air India; and (g) if so, the reasons therefor and its likely impact on Air India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement in reply to part (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.120 for reply on 31.7.2000 regarding Agreement between Air India and Virgin Atlantic

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Agreement permits Virgin Atlantic to operate 3 services/week on London-Delhi-Londonroute by using the unutilised traffic rights of Air India. These flights will be operated under a code share/block space arrangement with Air India. So far only two services/week are operating.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The current flight schedules are as follows:-

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Virgin Atlantic Schedule


DEL/LON  THU/SAT   DEP 1405/ARR 1825
LON/DEL  WED/FRI   DEP 2230/ARR 1135+1


Air India Schedule


DEL/LON  MON/WED/SUN/TUE  DEP 0645/ARR 1130
     DEP 0530/ARR 1015


LON/DEL  MON/TUE/THU/SAT  DEP 0945/ARR 2240
     DEP 1200/ARR 0055+1
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(f) and (g) Air India flights ex-Delhi arrive in London in the morning and provide better connections to passengers destined for onward flights. The flights of Virgin Atlantic arrive in the evening in London requiring overnight stay in London for connecting passengers, ex-India.